

**Amendments to the claims:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A gland plate comprising a rigid, disk-shaped element ~~including~~ comprising at least one ~~radial~~ radially extending wall having a thickness of from about 0.1 to 4mm.
2. (Original) A gland plate according to claim 1 wherein said element comprises two axially spaced, radially extending walls.
3. (Currently amended) A gland plate according to claim 2 ~~when~~ wherein said element further ~~includes~~ comprises inner and outer circumferential walls extending between said radially extending walls.
4. (Currently amended) A gland plate according to claim 3 ~~when~~ wherein said element is a hollow structure.
5. (Currently amended) A gland plate according to claim 3 ~~when~~ wherein said element is filled with concrete, plastics or water.
6. (Currently amended) A gland plate according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ when claim 1 wherein said at least one wall is ~~or walls are~~ made of metal.
7. (Currently amended) A gland plate according to claim 6 wherein said at least one wall is ~~or walls are~~ formed by a pressing operation.

8. (Currently amended) A gland plate according to claim 1, further comprising:  
~~any of the preceding claims and including~~ a first part providing a first radially extending wall  
and a second part providing a second radially extending wall, said first radially extending  
wall being axially spaced from said second radially extending wall.

9. (Original) A gland plate according to claim 8 wherein said first and second  
parts together provide inner and outer circumferential walls.

10. (Currently amended) A gland plate according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~  
claim 1 wherein the gland plate is provided with one or more through holes.

11. (Currently amended) A gland plate according to claim 10 wherein ~~the or~~ each  
of said through holes is formed by a pressing or punching operation.

12. (Currently amended) A gland plate according to claim 11 wherein material  
displaced when ~~the or~~ each of said holes is being formed provides a strengthening support  
around said hole.

13. (Currently amended) A gland plate according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~  
~~and in the form of~~ claim 1, wherein the gland plate comprises a hollow structure having first  
and second radially extending walls, and further comprising:

~~wherein~~ means ~~are provided~~ for feeding fluid through said gland plate.

14. (Currently amended) A sealing arrangement, comprising: ~~having a gland plate~~  
~~as claimed in any of the preceding claims.~~

a gland plate comprising a rigid, disk-shaped element comprising at least one radially  
extending wall having a thickness of from about 0.1 to 4mm.

15. (Currently amended) A mechanical seal, comprising: ~~having a gland plate as~~  
~~claimed in any of claims 1 to 13.~~

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a gland plate comprising a rigid, disk-shaped element comprising at least one radially extending wall having a thickness of from about 0.1 to 4mm.